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A Compendium of Mercantile Law. By the late John William Smith. Third edition, greatly enlarged and revised throughout, from the last English edition, by James P. Holcombe and William Y. Gholson. New York: D. Appleton & Company. 1855. pp. 755.

A book so well known, and so constantly used by the bar, hardly seems to require any notice at our hands; but the very numerous and skilfully arranged American Notes, appear to be a proper subject to which to call the attention of our professional brethren. Compendious treatises on special branches of law, fully annotated, have much value as mere labor-saving works, superseding to some extent the necessity of diligent searchings into numerous and voluminous digests. A skilful presentation of important adjudicated points, in brief notes at the foot of the page, seems, upon the whole, the most satisfactory mode of annotating which professional ingenuity has yet discovered and adopted. And the notes before us are of this very character: comprehensive without being tedious; ample without the fault of prolixity; and doubly useful by the number and method of the citations.

An Introduction to the Study of Jurisprudence: being a Translation of the General Part of Thibaut's "System des Pandekten Rechts;" with Notes and Illustrations by Nathaniel Lindley, of the Middle Temple, Esq., Barrister at Law. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson. 1855.

This is a book which we are extremely glad to see reprinted in the United States. Thibaut's System of Jurisprudence of the Pandects, from which it is in the main translated, is one of the most esteemed of the many remarkable treatises on the Roman Law which have appeared in the last half century. Such is and was its reputation in Germany, a country whose unsparing criticism is satisfied with nothing less than the highest excellence, that it passed through eight editions in the author's lifetime; and has since been made the basis of several elaborate commentaries. In England, where the study of the civil law is begun to be pursued with a zeal unknown since the days of Irnerius, the work has received the most enthusiastic commendation from Mr. George Long, who is probably the person most qualified there to form a judgment on such a subject. Speaking of it in connection with Savigny's celebrated Treatise, he says: "They are characterized by a soundness of knowledge, clearness of expression,